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Letter to Robert Byrd, May 22, 2007

Kenneth Hirsh

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Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

Alabama Florida Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina Puerto Rico
South Carolina Tennessee U.S. Virgin Islands Virginia Washington D.C. West Virginia

FACSIMILE: (804) 287-1845

May 22, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-311
Washington, DC 20510-4801

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 228-0002

Dear Chairman Byrd:

On behalf of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) and over 625 SEAALL members, I write today to ask you, as Ex Officio member of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, to support the full FY2008 funding request of the U.S. Government Printing Office.

SEAALL is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) with members in all of the states and territories listed on the letterhead. We share AALL's mission to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

Mary Alice Baish, AALL's Associate Washington Affairs Representative, testified before the House Legislative Branch Subcommittee on May 1. We endorse her statement in support of GPO's FY 2008 appropriations request (attached). SEAALL is committed to public access to Government information and a robust Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

There are more than 1200 Depository Libraries nationwide, and 14 of them are in your district including the State Law Library:

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals/State Law Library
Concord College
Bluefield State College/ Wendell G. Hardway Library
Kanawha County Public Library
West Virginia Library Commission/Reference Library
Davis and Elkins College/Booth Library
Fairmont State College/Ruth Ann Musick Library
Marshall University/James E. Morrow Library
West Virginia State University/Drain-Jordan Library

WVU Institute of Technology/Vining Library
West Virginia University/Downtown Campus Library
Salem International University/Benedum Library
Shepherd University/Scarborough Library
Mary H. Weir Public Library

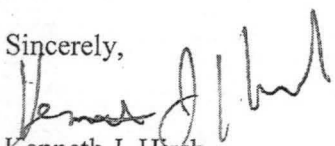
They need your support to ensure that your constituents have easy, no-fee access to Federal government information, both current and historic. Each library has very committed librarians who serve your constituents every day—whether they need a Congressional hearing published fifty years ago, the latest Census data available only online, or expert help to navigate complex agency Web sites.

We respectfully urge you to agree to the requested levels of GPO's Congressional Printing & Binding, Salaries & Expenses, and revolving funds for the following reasons:

- First, print is still the most useful format for certain types of information and certain categories of users. Print formats are required to meet the needs of the legal community because print is the *only* format that is both official and authentic. Funding is needed to ensure that the 2006 *U.S. Code* and the essential congressional resources of the 110th Congress are published and distributed to depository libraries in a timely manner.
- Second, GPO's electronic initiatives are needed to replace obsolete technology and upgrade electronic services for the 21st Century. The S& E request includes crucial funding to improve the *GPO Access* system, catalog documents harvested from agency Web sites and authentic online publications.
- GPO's request for the revolving fund includes \$10.5 million for the continuing development of the Future Digital System, which is essential to GPO's future. With your funding support to complete FDsys, the first public release will be next December.

We appreciate your support of the U.S. Government Printing Office and its critical role in providing your constituents with local access to Federal government information. We invite you to visit the depository libraries in your District to see for yourself the important role they have in serving your constituents. We urge you to fund fully GPO's FY 2008 budget request. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Hirsh
SEAALL President

Enclosure